The above statistics do not reveal any decline either in the landings of marine fish or shrimp. The data actually show a steady growth in the landings, subject to natural fluctuations in the abundance of the fishery resources. Since operation of fishing vessels under charter and joint ventures would increase the fish catches, the question of reviewing the policies does not arise.

(d) and (e) No Committee has been appointed to study the relief measures for the fishing industry. However, the following steps have been taken for promoting the sea fishing industry:—

(i) Augmentation of deep sea fishing fleet through a judicious mix of indigenous, imported and chartered fishing vessels;

(ii) Providing 33 per cent subsidy on the cost of indigenously built deep sea fishing vessels;

(iii) Augmentation of fishery surveys and training of fishery operatives;

(iv) Assistance for construction of fishing harbours and landing & berthing facilities at fishing centres to States;

(v) Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone through enactment of Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981; and

(vi) Encouraging motorisation of traditional fishing boats and introduction of improved Beach Landing Craft by providing subsidy.

Inclusion of PIC Clause in the FAO code on pesticides

*304. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 4095 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 1987 and State whether Government propose to support the proposal to include the Prior Informal Consent Clause in the FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides at the forthcoming FAO Council meeting due in November, 1987 in order to protect the interests of the developing countries in the Third World?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): The FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides was adopted on 28th November, 1985. Since the Code is voluntary, any changes will have to be brought about on the basis of consensus. Since it has been in operation for a short time, any amendment to the Code, including the inclusion of a "Prior Informed Consent" Clause therein, may have to follow a full study of its impact, based on experience over a longer period.

In the FAO Council meeting held at Rome, India supported the need for priority attention to this subject and amendment to the Code, if warranted, based on a study and experience in the implementation of the Code.

Illegal sale of gift materials by the IISCO

*305. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gift material received from Japan for construction of quarters for the lowest category of workers in the captive mines of SAIL was allotted to different Steel Plants of the SAIL;

(b) if so, what is the number of quarters constructed by each Steel Plant and in which captive mines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IISCO authorities sold out the gift material in the open market;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been

taken against the authorities/officials responsible for this scandal;

(e) whether Government propose to conduct a CBI inquiry into this illegal sale; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of quarters constructed by each steel plant for the low income group of employees after 31-3-1984 upto 31-3-1987 is as follows:—

Plant	Mines	Township	Total
Durgapur Steel Plant	156	—	156
Bhilai Steel Plant	6	2048	2054
Rourkela Steel Plant	191	100	291
Bokaro Steel Plant	276	2360	2636
IISCO	Nil	264	264

In the construction of these houses, use was made of the steel received under the Grant-in-Aid Programme from Japan as well as of steel produced in the steel plants themselves.

(c) IISCO were allocated 3762 tonnes of the material received from Japan. IISCO disposed of 3040 tonnes by sale to the Government Departments, Public Sector Companies priority customers of Joint Plant Committee and customers who had registered their demand at the stockyards.

(d) to (f) Government have already conducted an enquiry into the use of this material. On the basis of this enquiry SAIL have been asked to fix the responsibility for diversion of the steel and to initiate action against those responsible. SAIL have also been directed to replenish the diverted quantities by its production and to utilise them for the purpose originally stipulated. CBI enquiry does not appear to be necessary.

Public Distribution System in Andhra Pradesh

*307. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had recently inspected the working of the public distribution system in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are his observations on the working of the system; and

(c) whether Government have advised other State Governments to follow the example of Andhra Pradesh in regard to the distribution of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) I have visited some States including Andhra Pradesh recently. During these visits, I had discussions with the representatives of State Governments, trade and industry, voluntary organisations working in the field of consumer protection etc. In the discussions, I reviewed the functioning of the public distribution system and the availability and prices of essential commodities.

(b) The system is working well, like in some other States. I made some suggestions for improving the system.

(c) Good aspects as and when noticed in the functioning of the public distribution system of various States, are brought to the notice of